



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-025  
Prompted By: PE04-039  
Date Opened: 08/26/2004  
Principal Investigator: Peter Kivett  
Subject: False Park

Manufacturer: DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION  
Products: 2003-04 Dodge Ram 2500/3500 with Automatic Transmission  
Population: 183058

Problem Description: The vehicle may experience a reverse powered rollaway incident after an attempted shift into "PARK" with the key still in the ignition and the engine running.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	9	46	50
Crashes/Fires:	6	42	42
Injury Incidents:	2	3	3
# Injuries:	2	3	3
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

#### \*Description Of Other:

Action: An Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Engineer: Peter Kivett  
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/26/2004  
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#### Summary:

There have been 50 complaints to ODI and DaimlerChrysler alleging incidents of reverse powered rollaway after the driver had attempted to place the gearshift lever in the "PARK" position with the key in the ignition, the engine running, and the parking brake disengaged. These incidents are alleged to have resulted in 42 crashes and 3 injuries.

In my 2003, DaimlerChrysler introduced a new shifter design in the ram pickup trucks that featured an electronic gear position indicator (PRNDL) located in the dash display directly forward of the steering wheel. The complaint rate for the my 2003-04 ram 2500/3500 pickup trucks is significantly higher than the rates for the my 2001-02 ram 2500/3500 pickup trucks with the prior shifter design using a mechanical (PRNDL) and the my 2003-04 ram 1500 pickup trucks which use the same shifter as the subject vehicles, but a different transmission design. An engineering analysis has been opened.

PAK 8/27/04